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Any one interested in the application of common law principles to what are perhaps the most wonderful of modern conditions, will find in Mr. Keasbey's book a clear and unprejudiced exposition of the conflicting decisions upon the subject, and many valuable suggestions as to the future trend of the law.

G. T. H.

SOHM'S INSTITUTES OF ROMAN LAW. Translated by James C. Ledlie, of the Middle Temple, and of Lincoln College, Oxford; with an Introductory Essay by Dr. Erwin Grueber, University Reader in Roman Law, Oxford. One volume, pages xxxv, 521. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

It is seldom that a work so admirable comes to hand,—scholarly, scientific, and original. The name of the author, Prof. Rudolph Sohm, of Leipsic, a light in Germany to-day, and recognized as an authority on Roman law, insures its character and value. The style, excellent, if a trifle brilliant, is reproduced in the translation. Dr. Grueber's valuable essay, giving a history of the study of Roman law in its various stages both on the Continent and in England, and of the treatment and evolution of the Institutes, is a separate work rather than an introduction or aid to the main book.

To those familiar with the German works it is scarcely necessary to say that, based on the Institutes of Justinian, this is an exposition and commentary of the Roman law in its final rounded and perfected state, moulded by the *lex gentium*. Professor Sohm gives much space to the growth and change of principles and propositions, and, with wise suspense, holds their final statement until the later Empire's refined body of equitable doctrines has given its final touch.

There is a decided departure, not only from the original arrangement of the Institutes, but also from their present accepted arrangement. The order introduced by A. Heise, and commonly followed to-day, is:—

1. A general introductory part.
2. The Law of Things, comprehending ownership and rights over the property of others.
3. The Law of Obligation, including Contracts and Delicts.
4. The Law of the Family, regulating the relations of husband and wife, of parent and child, of guardian and ward.
5. The Law of Inheritance, Testamentary and Intestate Succession.

Professor Sohm, asserting that the person is to be taken into account in his capacity of holding property only, *i. e.*, as a subject or bearer of rights of property, and that the family law, on principle, has nothing to do with the family relations themselves, classifies as follows:—

1. The Law of Persons.
2. The Law of Property.
3. The Law of Family and Inheritance as the law affecting property as a whole.

Whether this classification is in harmony with the views of the Roman jurists, I shall not attempt to say. Dr. Grueber doubts.

J. C.